5: Amer. Russ. Inst. (no date) 1950 RF1 Great Russia RF1

[Constitution as of 1949]

641 [687] Art. 137. To defend the fatherland is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Russian SFSR. Treason to the country -- violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the State, espionage - is punishable with all the severity of the law and is the most heinous of crime.

Chapter XII. The Electoral System

666 Art. 138. Elections of deputies to all Soviets of Working People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies, Supreme Soviets of Autonomous Republics, Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Autonomous Regions, Soviets of Working People's Deputies of National and administrative Areas, districts, cities and rural localities (stanitsas, villages, hamlets and auls) are chosen by the electors on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Art. 139. Elections of deputies are universal: all citizens of the Russian SFSR who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race, or nationality, sex, religion, educational or residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the election of deputies and to be elected, with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

[641] Every citizen of the Russian SFSR who has reached the age of 21, irrespective of race, or nationality, sex, religion, educational or residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities may be elected as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 140. Elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote; all citizens participate in elections on an equal footing.

[642] Art. 141. Women have the right to elect and to be elected on equal terms with men.

[641] Art. 142. Citizens serving in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the USSR have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

Art. 143. Elections of deputies are direct: all Soviets of Working People's Deputies from the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of villages and cities to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, inclusive, are elected by the citizens by direct vote.

Art. 144. Voting at elections of deputies is secret.

Art. 145. Elections to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Russian SFSR are held by election districts on the following basis:

in elections to territorial and regional Soviets - one deputy for every 1,500 to 60,000 of its population, depending upon the size of the territory or region;

in elections to the regional Soviets of Autonomous Regions - one deputy for every 1,500 to 3,500 of its population, depending upon the size of the Autonomous Region;

in elections to Area Soviets of National Areas - one deputy for every 300 to 5,000 of its population, depending upon the size of the National Area;

in elections to area Soviets of administrative areas - one deputy for every 500 to 10,000 of its population, depending upon the size of the administrative area;

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is therefore said to be necessary as a means to completely eliminate "exploitation of man by man" and to bring about stateless and equalitarian society in the future.

In this manner any signs of opposition to the Party policies have been construed as "class struggle" and "counter-revolution" which made it possible for the self-seeking and mistrustful ruling faction of the Bolsheviks to eliminate all opposition to its rule, including the opposition within the Bolshevik Party itself. These means and justifications of self-perpetuation in power have been supported also by the contention that the counter-revolutionary schemes of the overthrown and dying classes are encouraged and fostered by foreign capitalist powers.

These imperialist states are said to tend to encircle the "only Socialist country" seeking to destroy it.[3] Contrary to the early Socialist promises that the state will tend to "wither away" after the proletariat had seized power, the Bolsheviks asserted that, after the proletarian revolution the state must become even more powerful because it must be used as a "special machine of suppresion."[3] Thus, instead of satisfying the traditional demands for acceptance in an all-human and stateless brotherhood, the Bolsheviks established relationships of absolute rule and unconditional obedience by monopolizing all social power in their hands. Each and every subject was made dependent for his life and livelihood upon the ruling faction. In this manner, planned economic regimentation, strict political conformity, control of thought and feeling, as well as police rule became intrinsic to the Soviet system of power.

In their compulsive drive to concentrate all power and all social control in their hands, the Bolsheviks dispossessed not only financial capitalists and large land owners, but even small farmers, fearing that these might eventually oppose and challenge their rule. "The medium peasantry is a self-sufficient class; the only one which, after the obliteration and expulsion of squires and capitalists, remains capable of opposing the proletariat," said Lenin.[4]

The need to regiment the peasantry, to break their group solidarity and make them completely dependent upon the government was supported also by other considerations. Owing to lack

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of international Communism. "In our times," said Stalin before the Seventeenth Party Congress in 1934, "it is not the custom to give any consideration to the weak. . . . consideration is only given to the strong." The Party therefore undertook to drill millions of subjects in the use of arms and to develop an imposing army of professional soldiers.

The need of militarization of the entire population has been reflected in the Bolshevik ideology of total war. As early as the nineteen twenties the Bolshevik military strategist and Commissar of Defense, Mikhail Frunze, developed the theory of mobilization of the entire population and of regimentation of all aspects of life as a means of war preparation.[62] As a result of such a trend of thought pre-military training has been introduced into public schools and many teaching subjects have been oriented toward military thinking. Also the Party has sponsored and supported private organizations to promote physical fitness and military training (*Ossoaviokhim*) on a mass scale.

The need of the ruling faction to use military training as a school of obedience, loyalty, leadership, and war preparedness dictated also the policies concerning the system of military training. Consequently earlier ideas of fraternization and equality of ranks developed as a response to the longing for an anarchic brotherhood were attacked as "false democracy"; instead strict military discipline has been introduced and embodied in minute military regulations.[63] As a result very heavy and hard punishments have been provided for slightest breaches in discipline.

The military regulations now demand unquestionable obedience of the subordinate to his superior, and immediate and literal execution of his command regardless of what that command may be: "The order of the commander is law for the subordinate. The order must be fulfilled without question, literally and immediately."[64] To insure such unconditional obedience the military regulations authorize Soviet officers to use harsh means to cope with lapses of discipline. These include not only ordinary punishments, but physical beatings and even killing "in an emergency, when there is no time to spare." Significantly enough, the term "officer" was discarded and has been substituted by that of "commander."